

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

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AGR-05 SR-02 ORM-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 DPW-01 PM-03 H-02

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8668

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 545

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3302

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, VS

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY AID TO VIETNAM

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY A DECISION TO GRANT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM VALUED AT 1,140,000 UNITS OF ACCOUNT (UA) (\$1,368,000) AND TO CONSIDER FURTHER MEASURES TO BRING ITS TOTAL AID TO 3 TO 4 MILLION UA (\$3.6 TO \$4.8 MILLION) END SUMMARY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TODAY THE COMMISSION WILL ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION TO GRANT FOOD AID TO VIETNAM. IN ADDITION, THE COUNCIL WILL APPROVE DECISIONS MADE IN PRINCIPLE IN DUBLIN FOR FURTHER AID.

3. THE COMMUNITY DECISIONS EMBRAC THREE ELEMENTS VALUED AT 1,140,000 UA: (A) AT THE COUNCIL MEETING, CHEYSSON WILL ANNOUNCE THAT THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED TO AUGMENT ITS EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH THE RED CROSS BY ADDING ADDITIONAL FOOD AID FOR VIETNAM VALUED AT ABOUT 360,000 UA CONSISTING OF 1,000 TONS OF RICE AND 100 TONS OF SKIMMED MILK POWDER.

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4. THE COUNCIL IS ALSO EXPECTED TO RATIFY FORMALLY DECISIONS TAKEN IN PRINCIPLE AT DUBLIN TO MAKE FURTHER GRANTS. THESE WILL CONSIST OF : (B) 600 TONS OF MILK POWDER VALUED AT ABOUT 480,000 UA (\$576,000) TO BE GIVEN TO UNICEF FOR VIETNAM, IN ADDITION TO THE 90 TONS OF MILK POWDER ALREADY COMMITTED TO UNICEF; AND (C) DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING VALUED AT 300,000 UA (\$360,000) FOR 100 TONS OF SUGAR, AS WELL AS MEDICINES AND AIR TRANSPORT FOR THESE PRODUCTS. WE UNDERSTAND THE AID DESCRIBED ABOVE IS TO BE GIVEN IN SOUTHER VIETNAM WITH NO DISTINCTION MADE ABOUT WHETHER THE TERRITORY IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT OR THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT (PRG).

5. CHEYSSON IS ALSO EXPECTED TO ASK THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER TWO TO THREE MILLION UA OF FOOD AID, WHICH WOULD BRING THE COMMUNITY TOTAL TO THREE TO FOUR MILLION UA. GREENWALD

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